

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Now, we know that while we pass these estimates on the basis of the individual details in the back of the book, in actual legal practice and in so far as the treasury board is concerned, we are passing only one gross amount for each section of the department. Once that gross amount is passed the minister is in a position, with the approval of the treasury board and sometimes without, to move that money around from one point to another. If, for example—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Perhaps I can stop this nonsense. This man is on the staff of the national research council, a civil servant on the establishment of the research council. He was transferred to the duty of being in charge of vehicles at the Montreal road establishment. This position needed to be filled, and he moved to the new position on July 1, 1955. The position, though it has been vacated, is on the establishment and will be on the establishment until the establishment is next revised when it will be dropped. I can tell my hon. friend that there are not occupants for every item on the establishment of the national research council, just as there are not occupants for every position on the establishment of the Department of Finance or any other department. I am sorry to have to educate him on this point which we would expect him to know, but still that is a fact.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): I am very grateful to the minister for finally seeing the wisdom of my argument and giving me the information which I required. I would just finish, because many people other than the members of this house read *Hansard*, by saying that when I was interrupted I was pointing out that the department or the minister in conjunction with the treasury board could move items around within the department. It is because of this that some of us feel there is necessity for examining these items closely. If we did not have a satisfactory answer from the minister, he would have an amount of \$3,660 which could be spent in a great many ways. We would have voted that money to him, and as long as it was spent for general purposes, salaries and other expenses of the national research council, parliament would have no immediate control over how the money was spent. It was for that reason I pressed the argument. I again thank the minister for finally giving a reasonable answer to a reasonable question.

Mr. Trainor: I would ask the parliamentary assistant whether, in his remarks during the debate this afternoon concerning the activities of the government in the field of research, he

[Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace).]

was attempting to present an argument designed to show the lack of necessity for setting up this proposed parliamentary committee on research?

Mr. Dickey: The answer is no, Mr. Chairman.

Item agreed to.

Atomic energy control board—

51. Administration expenses of the atomic energy control board, \$45,650.

Mr. Green: Is the minister going to make any statement on this item?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No. The atomic energy control board was set up some years ago, as my hon. friend knows, to have charge of the rules and the regulations governing atomic energy. Its duties have not changed, nor has its personnel. There is a grant for research which is still being maintained in that connection.

Mr. Green: There are three or four questions with which I would ask the minister to deal in connection with the Canadian atomic energy program. The first has to do with—

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Perhaps we could pass the item on the control board, and then move on to atomic energy.

Mr. Green: Yes, I do not mind.

Item agreed to.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited—

53. Current operation and maintenance, including expendable research equipment, \$11,366,183.

Mr. Green: The first question has to do with the use of atomic energy reactors for supplying power to the distant early warning line. I notice that in the agreement between the governments of Canada and the United States, which was dated June 15 of this year, there appears this provision dealing with reactors in article II, section B, paragraph 2:

Nevertheless, information pertaining to military nuclear power plants in furtherance of the joint Canada-United States defence effort in the development of an early warning radar network, may be exchanged.

As the minister knows, this particular agreement having to do with the use of atomic energy for peacetime purposes provides that there shall be no exchange of military information, with this one exception that any information concerning the installation of atomic energy plants in connection with radar networks in northern Canada may be exchanged. Press reports issued a few days after that agreement was made public, or perhaps on the same day, indicated that